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Introducing New Working Commission

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CIB NEWS ARTICLE

International Council for Research and Innovation
in Building and Construction

Providing a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction, in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

December 2010

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

W118 - Clients and Users in Construction

Introducing New Working Commission

A new Working Commission, W118 on "Clients and Users in Construction" has been established. Dr. Kim Haugbølle, SBI - Danish Building Research Institute/Aalborg University, Denmark has been appointed as Coordinator of this Working Commission.

Introduction: Framing Clients and Users

The main rationale behind establishing a Working Commission on 'Clients and Users' is to turn the hitherto dominant focus on the supply of buildings to the demand side. Clients and users play a significant role in shaping construction and real estate through various social, technological, economical, environmental and political drivers. Given the political attention towards clients and users, the time seems ripe to bring CIB into the forefront of this emerging field of research, development and training.

Looking at the lifecycle of buildings, two value chains of supply respectively demand come into focus:

- One value chain is occupied with the supply of constructions. It is here overly simplified as just consisting of design and construction involving the usual actors of the building process like architects, engineers, contractors, suppliers etc.
- The other value chain is related to the demand side of construction. We may want to think wide and broadly on the demand side to include not only clients and users, but also investors, owners and facility managers (including do-it-yourself). Further, the concept of users may be extended to include not only the immediate users, but also other relevant stakeholders like neighbours etc.

The distinction between these two value chains is in no way clear cut. In some respects, a developer may take on both the role as procurer and provider of buildings or facilities. Similar, facility management may be undertaken by the owner himself (DIY) or a specialised firm of facility management or even a construction firm. Nevertheless, the focus of 'Clients and Users' is explicitly on the demand side value chain.

Scope and Objectives

Against this background the aim of the Commission is:

- to bring together the experience and expertise of researchers and practitioners,
- to develop, share and disseminate appropriate research theories and practices for successful client management of procurement and innovation, and
- to encourage and facilitate new collaborative and multi-disciplinary research both within and outside of CIB.

The Commission will define what constitutes Clients and Users in Construction, will identify appropriate procurement and management strategies, will classify methods for engaging users in decision making processes and will develop appropriate related guidance material for clients and users.

Current Work Programme

The commission's programme objectives for the first three-year period (2011-2013) are:

- to develop a road map and research agenda,
- to establish an interactive virtual community,
- to establish a researchers' network, and
- to develop a handbook and best practice guides.

The commission will have one or two commission meetings each year and aims to develop a series of international workshops and conferences.

Planned Output

The Commission's planned output in the first three year period will be:

- 2011-13: publication of proceedings from workshops and conferences.
- 2011: launch of a designated website in support of a virtual community.



- 2011: publication of a roadmap and research agenda.
- 2012: establishment of a worldwide researchers' network.
- 2013: publication of a handbook and of best practice guides.

Meetings

The first meetings of the Commission will take place in conjunction with:

- the 6th Nordic Conference on Construction Economics and Organisation, 13-15 April, 2011, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- the World Sustainable Building Conference SB11, 18-21 October, 2011, Helsinki, Finland.

The first meeting of the Commission will take place Wednesday 13 April 2011 and will be organised as a full-day workshop as part of the 6th Nordic Conference. Please register your interest of participating in the workshop with Kim Haugbølle at khh@sbi.dk no later than February 1.

Introducing the Coordinator

Dr. Kim Haugbølle



Work Experience

Dr Haugbølle's work experience includes:

- Senior researcher, SBI/AAU – Danish Building Research Institute/Aalborg University.
- Head of Department of Process and Innovation, SBI – Danish Building Research Institute.
- Secretariat director, BUR – Danish Building Development Council.
- External lecturer in health and safety, The Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Main Activities

The main activities from Kim Haugbølle are:

- Research and development: Dr Haugbølle is an experienced writer of publications covering both popular and professional texts as well as texts in both Danish and English. The subjects covered are innovation and technology assessment in the construction industry with special emphasis on

- procurement, building performance, life cycle economics and environmentally sound design.
- Teaching and lecturing: Kim Haugbølle has been given many lectures on the subjects of LCC, sustainability, innovation and procurement for architects, construction managers and building authorities as well as for researchers both nationally and on international conferences. He is currently involved in the planning and execution of the brand new education as "BSc in Process and Innovation" at the Copenhagen University College of Engineering (IHK).
- Project management: Kim Haugbølle has managed several projects on LCC and the client as change agent. The complexity of the projects has ranged from very short projects to large-scale projects running over several years and involving external private and public partners as well as international groups of researchers.

Personal Statement

I am very honoured to have been offered the opportunity by the CIB Board to build a stronger cooperative community on clients and users.

Getting a better grasp of the aspirations, needs and behavior of clients and users will open up new and important roads for the industry to deliver more value for money.

In this emergent field, an important first task will be to formulate a research agenda as a platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration. I hope we will be able to attract people from outside the traditional boundaries of building research to enhance and fertilize our understanding of clients and users in construction.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite CIB Members as well as practitioners from e.g. the International Construction Clients Forum to join the first workshop meeting.

Additional Information

For additional information about the CIB W118 contact the Coordinator: Kim Haugbølle khh@sbi.dk.

You can find more information on the activities of CIB W118 in the CIB online Database "Commissions": see [here](#). In the shown search engine type "W118" in the field "Commission number" and press "Find Records".